



## *Iowa Outdoors*

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)

[www.iowanaturestore.com](http://www.iowanaturestore.com)

Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653

[mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sept. 27, 2005**

1. 10-Month Investigation Ends with 12 Charges in Deer Poaching Case
2. Poachers Beware – TIP Line Helps Officers Nab Wildlife Thieves – by Joe Wilkinson
3. Treestand Safety Important for Bow Hunters
4. Rain-Soaked Volunteers Clean Upper Iowa River
5. **Final** Iowa Fishing Report Until General Use Ice Conditions Exist

### **10-MONTH INVESTIGATION ENDS WITH 12 CHARGES IN DEER POACHING CASE**

DES MOINES, Iowa - A New Jersey man and two Pennsylvania brothers could face at least \$4,000 in fines and suspension of their hunting privileges for allegedly killing deer unlawfully in Iowa last year.

Ronald A Hayek, 36, of Towaco, N.J., was charged with seven counts of making a false claim to obtain resident Iowa licenses, unlawfully taking a deer and attempting to take a deer by unlawful means. He also faces a charge of attempting to take a turkey by unlawful means. Daniel S. Hosaflook, 38, of Verona, Pa., and Donald Hosaflook, 35, of Delmont, Pa., were each charged with unlawfully taking a deer.

State conservation officer Ed Kocal, assigned to Scott County, filed the charges last week following a 10-month investigation.

Hayek allegedly used a Bettendorf address to purchase resident hunting licenses and deer and turkey tags. A check of Iowa's Electronic Licensing System for Iowa records showed in 2004 Hayek purchased resident hunting license and four resident deer tags, three for the bow season and one for the early muzzleloader season. A further check revealed he had also purchased a resident hunting license and turkey tag in 2005. Hayek allegedly killed at least one antlered deer with an illegal license.

Both Hosaflooks allegedly killed antlered deer on a nonresident antlerless only license.

All three men hunted in Monroe County, near Eddyville.

State conservation officers in New Jersey confiscated a shoulder mount from an 11-point deer and skull caps from an 8-pointer and a 10-pointer from Hayek. Pennsylvania authorities confiscated a 10-point shoulder mount from Donald Hosaflook and an 8-point shoulder mount from Daniel Hosaflook.

“We couldn’t have made the case without the other states’ cooperation,” Kocal said.

Hayek was fined \$1,488, while the Hosaflooks were each fined \$162. Hayek also faces a three year suspension of his hunting privileges, while the Hosaflooks each face one year suspensions. Because Iowa is a member of the Wildlife Violators Compact, any license suspension in Iowa will be honored in the 18 other member states.

If convicted, each man also faces a minimum \$4,000 civil fine. Under Iowa’s Liquidated Damages law, anyone convicted of illegally killing an antlered deer scoring 150 points or less under the Boone and Crockett club’s scoring system shall reimburse the state a minimum of \$4,000 and a maximum of \$10,000 for each animal. Had the deer scored more than 150, the civil fines range from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

The criminal charges are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

**For more information, contact Ed Kocal at (563) 349-8953.**

###

## **POACHERS BEWARE – TIP LINE HELPS OFFICERS NAB WILDLIFE THIEVES**

Most times, it comes under the cover of night. Sometimes, the crack of a rifle can be heard during the day. It depends on the circumstances...and the confidence of the poacher.

Witnesses who light up the Turn In Poachers hotline, though, erode that confidence. “As we move into ‘pre-season’ for the main hunting seasons in Iowa, we are looking at spotlighting, typically,” cautions Steve Derman, Turn In Poachers (TIP) coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources. “Individuals are looking for big deer; trying to take them by illegal methods, usually prior to the other hunting seasons.”

The nocturnal nature of deer combined with night's cloak of darkness make it 'working hours' for would be poachers. Iowa whitetails are our high profile species for poaching. With their continent-wide reputation for trophy racks, a big set of antlers can generate some cash, even if taken illegally.

However, there is also an increase in *legal*, outdoor traffic. Dermand says those extra eyes and ears in the outdoors make October, November and December the busiest period for the 250 to 300 calls received at the TIP Hotline each year. "People are still out fishing. Bow hunting begins October 1. In a few weeks, pheasant hunters will be active," notes Dermand. "Farmers and landowners are out there right now, too, harvesting crops. With cell phones in tractor cabs or carried for emergencies, we get a lot of calls from folks like that."

Suspicious lights can be a giveaway of illegal activity. A hunter or landowner coming across a headless deer in a field also has a possible poaching case lying in front of him.

Dermand says about 65 percent of the calls fielded at the hotline (800 532-2020) are about deer. Not all of them are illegal activity. Some can never be proven. Still, he says about one in seven calls results in citations.

And the fines (liquidated damages) can be a lot heftier than that ill-gotten deer rack may have commanded. Recent legislative changes tie penalties to the size of the antlers. A poacher in western Iowa was assessed \$20,000 to pay after his involvement was confirmed in a deer case last year.

But it is not just trophy deer that attract wildlife thieves. About 10 percent of the calls are from boaters or anglers, as they watch some one deliberately take too many fish. Illegal fur cases make up another 8 percent. From there, the calls are scattered among other species.

Dermand stresses that poaching is not a 'nobody gets hurt' activity. A hunter may plan his fall forays around a particular buck he has been patterning for years...only to have the opportunity taken away by a greedy interloper. Trumpeter swan shootings have brought outcries from duck hunters who sometimes witness and detain (not recommended, by the way) the perpetrators while a conservation officer races to the scene. Instead, he emphasizes that poachers are stealing; stealing from the license-buying public whose license dollars pay for hunting and wildlife opportunities...and from all Iowans with any stake in the outdoors.

Callers to the TIP line can remain anonymous and could qualify for a cash reward.

### **Early Deer Tag Deadline Approaches**

Hunters who have not purchased any antlerless deer tags have another week to go over their choices. On October 1, an unlimited number of popular antlerless-only tags

may be purchased for most seasons, until county quotas are reached. Through the end of this month, no more than three of them may be purchased by one person.

The October 1 opening does not affect regular season tags; just those within a county's antlerless quota. As of Wednesday, for instance, Johnson County showed 1,500 of 1,900 remaining. Last year, though, it was one of many counties which were 'sold out' by late November and December, when many hunters traditionally purchase tags. That caused some to adjust their hunting plans if they wanted to hunt in more than one season.

Purchase of special zone tags, such as those for the Johnson County corridor or Lake Macbride State Park's bow hunt, are not affected by the county antlerless quotas.

The Iowa Hunting and Trapping Regulations booklet is available at license outlets and DNR offices. Besides deer hunting guidelines, it also has general hunting information for upland game, and fall and spring turkey seasons. The information is also carried at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com).

### **Eagle, Pheasant Now on License Plates**

Two new specialty license plates, one featuring a pheasant, the other an eagle, have been added to the options Iowans can choose from to support natural resource programs. They join the goldfinch/wild rose license plate, to generate more funding and recognition for the state's Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program as well as the wildlife diversity program. Eastern Iowa artist Greg Bordignon created the artwork for the plates, which are now on sale at the county treasurer office.

Unveiling the new plates this week, DNR director Jeff Vonk noted that the goldfinch/wild rose plate has been the state's most popular specialty plate, now on about 45,000 vehicles. He hopes 10,000 of the two additional natural resource plates will sell within a year. Iowa has about 40 specialty plates to choose from supporting dozens of other special interests.

Anyone with the current goldfinch/rose plates can exchange them for one of the new ones for a fee of \$5 at their county treasurer's office. Motorists wishing to exchange any other type of plate for any of the three natural resources plates will need to take their plates and vehicle registration to their county treasurer's office and pay \$45 for natural resources plate. Income from the single choice natural resource plate last year amounted to about \$700,000.

Vonk said the new plates are in response to many requests over the years for a wider selection. "With every plate purchase, another person or family becomes more directly involved, by their own free will, in funding conservation programs in Iowa," he said, "and the plate on their vehicle testifies to that."

###

## **TREESTAND SAFETY IMPORTANT FOR BOW HUNTERS**

DES MOINES – Deer hunters heading out during bow season should remember that a safety harness is one of the most important pieces of equipment – especially when setting up their treestand. The early bow season for deer begins Oct. 1.

“We know hunters fall from treestands and receive injuries,” said Rod Slings, recreation safety program supervisor with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. “Hunters are reluctant to report those injuries because they are embarrassed, but it is a problem, and falling from a treestand is a problem that can be prevented.”

Bow hunters are the primary group using treestands, but muzzleloader and shotgun hunters also use the devices. Slings said he has seen enough evidence of injuries requiring medical attention that all hunters climbing into a treestand should take the time to properly secure their safety harness.

“I know cases where experienced hunters have fallen from their treestand and been severely injured,” he said. “In extreme cases, Iowa hunters have laid in the timber for days before they have been found. We even have cases where the injured hunter has died.”

Slings said a safety harness should be part of the hunt plan. It is just as important as knowing where each member of the hunting group is at all times. He offered a few simple tips hunters should follow that can prevent falls.

- Always use a safety harness or other fall restraint system whenever using a treestand.
- Inspect the equipment and only use equipment that is in good condition.
- Securely attach the treestand no more than 10 to 12 feet high in the tree.
- Use an equipment haul line to raise and lower the equipment.
- Maintain a short tether to the tree, only allowing enough slack to turn to shoot.
- File a hunting plan. Leave a note saying where you are and when you will return.

“The ultimate goal of every hunt is to get home safely,” Slings said. “It is worth spending a few minutes examining your treestand and properly attaching a harness to avoid ending up in a hospital or worse.”

**For more information, contact Slings at 515-281-8652.**

###

## **RAIN-SOAKED VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UPPER IOWA RIVER**

CRESCO — The Upper Iowa River played host to an armada of canoes, as scores of volunteers came to clean its waters, despite heavy rains throughout most of the weekend.

The Fourth Annual Upper Iowa River Cleanup took place Saturday, Sept. 24. Volunteer crews worked on four different river cleanup routes covering approximately 30 river miles stretching above Kendallville and below Bluffton, removing garbage and enjoying the Upper Iowa's beautiful limestone cliffs. Another crew, through consultation with Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials, wielded chainsaws to remove dangerous snags, for future users.

"We had a great event with amazing volunteers," said program coordinator and northeast Iowa resource conservation and development forester, Richard Kittelson. "In the few hours that they were on the river (until concerns of lightning forced routes to be shortened). They made a significant impact."

More than 100 people volunteered this year. They removed enough garbage to fill nearly two 10 wheel dump trucks, with only 1/3 being non-recyclable. Their trash treasures included tires, 55 gallon barrels, a hide-a-bed, camp chairs and fishing supplies, a fuel oil tank, many beverage containers, a hog feeder, and Mardi Gras beads.

The Upper Iowa River Cleanup began in 2002, when roughly 20 people helped beautify the waterway. The program has grown every year since and aims to highlight the importance of water quality and natural resources stewardship. This event brought folks from all across Iowa as well as from surrounding states.

"It's a great event that brings a great diversity of volunteers," said Peter Komendowski, a return volunteer working alongside a group ranging from Luther College students to retirees. "The organizers make this event one that welcomes and accommodates everyone from avid paddlers to families to students. I love this part of the state and really enjoy this event. I'll definitely be back next year."

In return for their time spent cleaning up the river, volunteers received free breakfast and lunch, free camping Friday and Saturday nights, and free canoe use during the event. Local businesses donated prizes for a drawing — including gift cards, a child's rod and reel, clothing, coupons and more.

"The combination of partners that came together to organize and support these volunteer efforts really speak to the depth of dedication toward protecting this river," said Cathy Engstrom of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, one of this year's new partners. "There are many great projects we've all done individually; it was exciting to do this together."

Donors and sponsors include: Norby's, Ozzie's Outdoors, Upper Iowa Marine, Fred Carlson Company, Happy Joe's Pizza, Mabe's Pizza, Decorah Pizza Hut, Agora Arts, Gallery of Tops, Hotel Winnesheik, Oneota River Cycles, Decorah Bicycles, ACE Hardware-Decorah, Kephart's Music Center, Decorah JD Implement Co., Decorah Hatchery, T-Bocks Sport Bar, Wal-Mart, ACE Hardware-Cresco, Camp Site RV, The Plantpeddler, Subway-Cresco, Cresco Pizza Hut, Cabela's Inc., Oneota Community Food Co-op, Waving Grains Bakery, Fareway, Subway, Mike's Fruit Market, Quillin's, Casey's (Freeport, Decorah and Ossian), Pepsi Distributing, Kwik Star, Featherlite Inc., Cresco Union Savings Bank, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Spectrum Recycling, Decorah Tire, McAfrie Scrap Metal, Rockweiler's Appliance, Chimney Rock Canoe Rental & Campground, Harvest Farm Campground & Canoes, and the Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development.

For more information, contact Richard Kittelson at (563) 864-7112 or [kittelson@netins.net](mailto:kittelson@netins.net).

###

## **FINAL IOWA FISHING REPORT**

**For the week of September 27, 2005**

**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

This is the **final** fishing report for the fall. Fishing reports will resume when ice conditions support general use and activities. For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

### **Northwest**

Water coming into the Spirit Lake fish hatchery is 66 degrees. The recent rains (up to 6 inches in places) will be congregating fish around inlets chasing bait fish. All area natural lakes have these areas, and are included on lake maps. Go to [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) then fish and fishing, then where to fish. Pick your lake and look for areas of inflow.

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): Walleyes are being caught on the North Grade using minnows under bobbers or by casting jigs. Walleyes are being caught on the main lake near inlet areas. Buffalo Run, Little Spirit inlet, and the footbridge have all been producing fish in the evening. Largemouth can also be caught in these areas during the day.

**West Okoboji** (Dickinson): Smallmouth bass are being caught on the deeper rock piles and bars in Miller's Bay and Hayward's Bay as well as Pillsbury and Fort Dodge points using soft plastics. Some largemouth are being caught around the weed lines.

**East Okoboji** (Dickinson): Perch and crappies are being caught around docks using minnows. Anglers are also catching a few white bass. Walleyes are being caught at night around bridge areas on small suspending crankbaits or twisters.

**Silver Lake** (Dickinson): Anglers are starting to catch walleyes from shore.

**West Fork of the Des Moines River:** Anglers are catching catfish below riffles and in holes using night crawlers, frogs and crawdads.

**Lake Pahoja** (Lyon): Anglers are catching 6 to 8-inch yellow perch from shore using small jigs.

**Willow Creek** (Osceola): Fishing is fair for largemouth bass using plastic worms.

**Ocheyedan Pits** (Osceola): Small largemouth bass and small bluegills are being caught around the shoreline using night crawlers.

**Black Hawk Lake** (Sac): Channel catfish fishing is good using chicken liver. Anglers are catching a few crappies in the Town Bay area, but the action is just starting.

**Crawford Creek** (Ida): Fishing is good for medium sized bluegills using small lead heads tipped with a wax worm or piece of night crawler.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass are hitting night crawlers, cut bait and small minnows. Yellows have been biting in a variety of spots. The deep water around the Island and Dodge's Point, the artificial weed beds, the Baptist Camp, and any of the rock reefs have been producing fish. Anchoring and vertical jigging has been working the best. Many of the fish are 9 to 10.5 inches. Some 7 to 8-inch fish are being caught that are from a younger year class. Walleye fishing continues to be slow. Sub-legal sized fish are being caught.

**Crystal Lake** (Hancock): Channel catfish are hitting on stink bait and chicken liver. Fishing in the evening to early morning hours produces the best action.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

### **Southwest**

**Little River** (Decatur): Some crappie and channel catfish are being caught.

**Binder Reservoir** (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 pounds can be caught from the bays.

**Green Valley** (Union): Some bluegill and crappie are being caught around the deeper tree piles and stake beds on wax worms and night crawlers.

**Three Mile** (Union): Walleye can be caught from the roadways and rock piles. Some bluegill and crappie can be caught from the flooded trees on night crawler pieces and wax worms. Channel catfish can be caught from the bays.

**Icaria** (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 pounds are being caught off the jetties and from the bays. Walleyes up to 14 inches and bluegills up to 7 inches can be caught from the flooded cedar trees. Some largemouth bass up to 13 inches can be caught from the rock mounds and riprap.

**Blockton** (Taylor): Some channel and flathead catfish can be caught.

**Three Fires** (Taylor): Channel catfish up to 1 ½ pounds can be caught from the jetties and the upper end of the lake. Largemouth bass up to 12 inches can be caught from the flooded trees and rock.

**Fogle** (Ringgold): Some bluegill and crappie are being caught from the flooded trees. Fish a piece of night crawler about 8 feet below the surface.

**Grade** (Clarke): Nice bluegills can be caught on the outside of the weed lines and by drift fishing over deeper vegetation.



**Don Williams** (Boone): Channel catfish fishing has been good using chicken liver and night crawlers. Crappie fishing has been fair with jigs and minnows. Bass fishing is slow although some fish are hitting top-water and spinner baits.

**Hickory Grove** (Story): Bluegill fishing has been good with worms. Crappie fishing has been good with jigs and minnows. Largemouth bass fishing has been good during the early morning in deeper water. Channel catfish fishing has slow using chicken liver, with the best fishing in the early morning or evening.

**Rock Creek** (Jasper): Crappie fishing has been fair to good with jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing has been fair worms and /or chicken liver. Largemouth bass have been biting on top-water lures.

**Big Creek** (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been good with worms. Crappie fishing is fair with jigs and /or minnows. Channel catfish fishing has been good, particularly at night.

**Easter** (Polk): Channel catfish fishing has been good using worms and /or chicken liver. Crappie fishing has been fair with jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing has been fair using worms and bobbers. Largemouth bass fishing, particularly for smaller bass, has been good.

**Saylorville Lake** (Polk): White bass fishing has been slow, and walleye fishing has been fair, particularly in the Cherry Glen area. Channel catfish fishing has been good to excellent with the best area north of the mile-long bridge.

**Below Saylorville Dam** (Polk): White bass/wiper fishing has been slow using jigs and /or minnows. Walleye fishing has been fair in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has been good to excellent from Saylorville Dam to Cottonwood access.

**Lake Red Rock** (Marion): White bass and crappie fishing has been fair to good particularly in the Whitebreast area. Crappie fishing has been best with jigs and minnows with some nice sized fish reported. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using traditional baits, with the better areas in the upper portions of the reservoir.

**Below Lake Red Rock** (Marion): Anglers report white bass and walleye fishing has been good using jigs and jigs and minnows in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has been slow to fair, with some nice fish being caught.

**Roberts Creek** (Marion): Channel catfish fishing has been fair near the outlet using chicken liver or traditional baits. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow to fair particularly around the dam.

**Ahquabi** (Warren): Bluegill and redear fishing has been good with most fish taken on worms and wax worms. Crappie fishing has picked up, with the best fishing during early morning. Channel catfish fishing has been good using chicken liver, night crawlers or stink bait in the evenings. Largemouth bass fishing has been good using plastic worms and spinner lures, although most have been sub-legal.

**Hooper** (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been fair using worms and bobbers around structure. Channel catfish fishing has been fair to good in the evening using chicken livers and stink baits. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow using plastic worms and spinner lures.

**Viking** (Montgomery): Crappie fishing is fair using a small jig or minnow and bobber in 6 to 8 feet of water around structure. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using plastic baits with a slow retrieve. Channel catfish are being caught using liver and stink

bait in early morning and late evening. There are reports of 8 to 10 pound fish being caught.

**Anita** (Cass): Channel catfish fishing is good. The lake is 5.5 feet low and boat ramps are not quite useable.

**Cold Springs** (Cass): Channel catfish fishing is slow but a few are being caught using liver in the evenings. Crappie fishing is fair around sunken trees. Bluegills are being caught with small jigs around structure.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Channel catfish is fair using stink bait and liver on Boy Scout Island and the west shore. Walleyes have slowed, but a few are being caught along west and south shore in evening drifting night crawlers.

**Orient** (Adair): Fishing is slow for 7 to 8-inch crappies drifting jigs and minnows. Channel catfish is good using liver early in morning and late afternoon. Bluegills are slow but are still being caught drifting night crawlers.

**Mormon Trail** (Adair): Channel catfishing is fair using liver or minnows in the evening. Bluegills are fair drifting jigs tipped with worms. Largemouth bass are good using plastic baits around new cedar trees.

**Greenfield** (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair drifting a jig tipped with night crawler and vertical jigging around sunken trees. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using plastic baits. Catfish is fair using liver and dead minnows.

**Meadow** (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair for 8-inch fish using night crawlers around sunken trees or by drifting a small jig tipped with night crawler. Crappies are slow, but a few are being caught with minnows and bobbers around sunken trees.

**Littlefield** (Audubon): Bluegill fishing is fair. Try drifting a night crawler in 4 to 5 feet of water. Crappie fishing is slow but some are still being caught using minnows and bobbers. Most crappies are 10 inches in length. Channel catfishing is fair using prepared dip bait and liver close to shore in rocks.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Flathead catfish are being caught using live bait. Crappies and bluegill are slow, but can still be caught along rocky shorelines. Channel catfish are being caught in evening using dead minnows or liver. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using crankbaits and plastic worms.

**DeSoto Bend** (Harrison): Walleye fishing is slow, but walleyes are being caught jigging minnows around brush piles and trolling crankbaits in evening in 6 to 8 feet of water. Channel catfishing is slow but some are being caught using liver in evening. Crappies are slow; try fishing minnow and bobber around sunken trees.

**Willow** (Harrison): Bluegills are being caught using worms. Channel catfish are fair being caught in the evening using liver. Crappies are slow but a few are being caught jigging minnows around trees.

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

### **Southeast**

**Lake Darling** (Washington): Catfish are still biting on chicken liver in the evenings just before dusk. Look for bass and flathead catfish to start working the shorelines to fatten up for winter.

**Lake Geode** (Henry): Look for bluegills around the ledges in 10 to 13 feet of water. Troll for crappies using a three-way swivel rig and a minnow.

**Lake Belva Deer** (Keokuk): Anglers are catching some nice bluegills in 7 to 10 feet of water. Water temperature is still in the upper 70s, so it will take some cool weather to bring the bluegills in shallow.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): Crappies have been biting on minnows in deep water around areas with underwater structure. Channel catfish have been biting on liver and night crawlers.

**Lake Hawthorn** (Mahaska): Channel catfish have been biting on night crawlers and liver. Crappies have been hitting on small minnows fished in deep water.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial lures. Bluegills and crappies have been biting on small jigs.

**Lake Wapello** (Davis): Bluegills have been biting in deeper water on jigs tipped with wax worms or night crawlers. Largemouth bass are being caught on a variety of lures.

**Lake Keomah** (Mahaska): Channel catfish have been biting on liver and night crawlers.

**Hannen Lake** (Benton): Some 7 to 9-inch bluegills are now being caught. Try small worms in the shallow rocky areas of the lake.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Crappies are starting to bite on small jigs or minnows fished over brush piles in 8 to 10 feet of water. Bluegills can be caught around the rocky shorelines and shallow brush.

**Coralville Reservoir** (Johnson): Anglers catching crappies are fishing in the brush in small coves or along the rock walls using jigs or jigs and minnows.

**Kent Park** (Johnson): Channel catfish have been caught on stink bait or night crawlers, and early and late hours seem to produce best. Crappies and bluegills are concentrated on the brush piles and can be caught on small baits.

**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Channel catfish are still being caught on a regular basis. Be prepared to catch numerous 8 to 10-inch fish due to the recent release of cage raised catfish. Crappie fishing is picking up by fishing around the brush with small jigs.

**Union Grove** (Tama): A recent survey has found huge numbers of bluegills and crappies in the brush piles of the lake. Anglers should be able to catch these on small baits. Catfish can be found mixed in or in the rocky shorelines.

**Skunk River** (Keokuk and Washington): The river is low and would be difficult to do any boating. Catfish will be starting on the fall feeding frenzy as soon as the weather cools.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15:** The Mississippi River has been rising over the past week. The water level at Lansing is 8.4 feet and is projected to remain stable. The river stage at Guttenberg is currently 5.12 feet and is forecast to rise to 6.28 feet by October 2. River stage at Bellevue is 498 feet and rising, with a water temperature of 69 degrees.

Walleye angling is good in **Pool 9** in Minnesota Slough, Desoto Bay and around Blackhawk Park. Anglers have had their best luck catching walleyes in Minnesota Slough trolling silver and black crankbaits and three-ways with willow cats. A jig tipped

with a night crawler has been effective for walleyes in Desoto Bay and around Blackhawk Park. Walleye fishing has been fair in **Pools 10 to 15**. Fish along the wing dams using night crawlers or crankbaits for best success.

Sauger fishing has been slow in the tailwater of the locks and dams in **Pools 10 and 11**, but a few fish are being caught on jigs tipped with a minnow.

Bluegill fishing has been good in **Pools 9 to 15**, especially around the snags. Concentrate around wood or rock structure or along vegetation in the backwaters and running sloughs and suspend a piece of night crawler 4 to 5 feet below the surface. Near shore, fish along the rocks bordering the main channel and drift a piece of night crawler or wax worm a foot or two below a bobber for bluegills. Drop a piece of night crawler right on the bottom with a split shot next to the wing dams, but move if you don't get a bite within 15 minutes. Bussey Lake (**Pool 10**) has been especially good for bluegills. Try fishing the north end of the lake in the dredge cut along the bank of the island. Some good numbers of yellow perch are also being caught in this area of Bussey Lake using night crawlers or wax worms.

Crappie fishing is fair to good in **Pools 9 to 15**. Crappies like to hang out in the snags, so try fishing underwater snags in deeper water with a slight current or fish the sloughs with little or no current. Crappies are also often associated with woody structure, so cast a piece of night crawler or use a bobber and suspend a minnow 1 to 5 feet below the surface of the water next to logjams. Even though crappie fishing has been slow, the size has been quite good.

Channel catfishing has been good to excellent in **Pools 9 to 15**. Anglers are using stink bait along the face of the wing dams or in deep water behind the outside edges of the wing dams. When fishing for catfish, be ready to move if you don't have a bite within the first 15 minutes.

Smallmouth bass fishing has been good in **Pools 9 to 11**. Some nice smallmouth can be caught in the morning and evening hours on the wing dams. Anchor on the up-river side of the wing dam and cast a crankbait or top-water popper over the top of the dam and retrieve the lure back towards the boat.

Fishing for largemouth bass in **Pools 9 to 15** has been good using top-water lures, spinner baits and crankbaits around rocky shorelines in out-of-current areas or the mouth of backwater areas. Bass are also being taken in vegetated areas in the backwaters using top-water lures and spinner baits. Soft plastics pitched into woody structure or vegetation can also be effective.

**Cedar and Shell Rock Rivers** (Bremer and Black Hawk): Channel catfish are being caught on a variety of baits including chicken liver, night crawlers, prepared baits (stink baits) or leeches. The best catfishing occurs during rising water conditions following a rain. Walleye fishing has been fair on jigs tipped with a night crawler.

**Maquoketa River** (Delaware and Jones): Smallmouth bass fishing is good on crankbaits or twister tails. Channel catfish are being caught on night crawlers.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Buchanan): Water levels are up and channel catfish are biting on night crawlers. A few walleyes were being caught on jigs tipped with a night crawler prior to the recent rains.

**Casey Lake** (Tama): Channel catfish are hitting a variety of baits fished off the jetties including prepared baits and night crawlers.

**Cedar** (Mitchell and Floyd) and **Turkey Rivers** (Fayette and Clayton): The rivers are muddy due to recent rains.

**Big Woods Lake** (Black Hawk): Anglers are catching crappies fishing small (1/32-ounce) chartreuse jigs in 20 feet of water.

**Lake Delhi** (Delaware): Bluegill fishing is good using worms around the snags. Crappie fishing is good in the deeper water near the dam.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): The water temperature is still 71 degrees and channel catfish are biting on chicken liver.

**Lake Meyer** (Winnebago): Bluegill fishing is good using a piece of night crawler under a bobber next to structure.

**South Prairie Lake** (Black Hawk): Fishing is fair for channel catfish using prepared baits or night crawlers.

**Trout Streams:** Announced stream stockings end Sept. 30, but trout fishing is far from over. Throughout October, many trout streams will be stocked on a regular basis and trout will be present in almost all streams throughout the winter months. Not much can compare to a crisp autumn day angling for trout—unless it is the trout themselves with their bright spawning colors in red and yellow.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

###